Accreditation Council (NAAC) for additional courses and for additional intake to the existing courses. The NCTE also undertakes regular monitoring of the functioning of the recognized teacher training institutions to ensure quality teachers for the schooling system.

(d) The NCTE has prepared a National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education which would be finalized in consultation with the State Governments and other stakeholders.

Setting up of NRI universities

2552. PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has announced to set up NRI universities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of universities to be established;

(c) the steps taken so far in this direction and the reasons for inordinate delay in its implementation; and

(d) the time-frame by which Government expects to establish such universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) According to the information furnished by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, it is proposed to set up five Persons of Indian Origin (PIO)/Non Resident Indians (NRI) Universities in the country. The first PIO/NRI University is being set up at Bengaluru by the Manipal Academy of Higher Education Trust. As per recommendations of the Advisory Board constituted for the purpose, action is underway on the part of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, to enact a Central legislation for setting up the university.

Proposals have been invited and received by the said Ministry for setting up four more PIO/NRI Universities in other cities. The time frame for establishing the four Universities would be worked out by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, after examination of the proposals received.

Modernisation of laboratories of polytechnic colleges

†2553. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased lo state:

(a) whether the proposal of modernization project of laboratories in 17 polytechnic colleges of Madhya Pradesh is pending before the Central Government since November, 2005;

(b) if so, the reasons for pendency of this proposal; and

(c) by when these will be sanctioned?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.